

# THE *Beacher*<sup>TM</sup>

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## A “Star” is Reborn

by Connie Kuzydym



In this Beacher file photo by Bob Wellinski, Jamileh Cornejo performs in the 2019 Hoosier STAR. She will compete again this year.

Across the nation, orchestras are grappling with how to survive COVID-19, the pandemic creating unprecedented challenges for those leading them. Many concert seasons are canceled until 2021; others are following a concert-by-concert approach.

Then, there are those getting out of their comfort zones, figuring out alternate means to exist.

The latter is true of Tim King, executive director of LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra, Chuck Steck, interim music director, and Hoosier STAR

Chair Cherri Blair-Drayton. Rather than cancel Hoosier STAR, LCSO's biggest fundraiser, they reinvented it. Hoosier STAR this year will be live streamed, held in a smaller setting and with fewer musicians.

“I really feel that Hoosier STAR, which is now in its 15th year, has become a signature event for the orchestra,” Tim said. “If you lose a year, there goes the momentum. It’s gone.”

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## A "Star" is Reborn

Continued from Page 1

Hoosier STAR, a vocal competition, gives 10 finalists a rare opportunity to perform with the orchestra before a live audience. Auditions typically are in March, with the competition held in September at LaPorte Civic Auditorium.

Cherri, who took over the reins of Hoosier STAR four years ago, worked diligently for months, sending out information to prospective contestants, scheduling auditions, lining up judges and coordinating volunteers to assist at auditions. She was wrapping up loose ends in early March when the nationwide shutdown began because of COVID-19. Instead of a knee jerk reaction to cancel LCSO's largest fundraiser two weeks before auditions, the team postponed them to consider ways to salvage the program.

Tim had just canceled LCSO's March concert in which the fifth music-director candidate in the "Bravo, Maestro" series already was in town. Now was the time to think outside the box.

How do you revamp a live event? Especially where the thrill of performing with a live orchestra is part of the allure. As anyone who has competed in Hoosier STAR will attest, the gratification of singing with a live orchestra trumps the prize money. How do you replicate the electricity that builds as volunteers transform the Civic into a gala event? Where cloth-decorated tables await patrons, the balcony draws an audience of supporters and the stage is set for the orchestra, contestants, judges, emcee and trophies.

The LCSO embraced the old



Tim King and Cherri Blair-Drayton are among the LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra team helping organize Hoosier STAR.

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show business adage "the show must go on," but with a twist. This year, instead of heading to the Civic for a star-studded event, Hoosier STAR fans can turn on their computers as the event is live-streamed across numerous platforms. Watching the competition is free, and there is a nominal fee to cast votes for performer(s).

That Hoosier STAR is still going strong is, in itself, amazing. Typically, competition-fundraisers have a shelf life due to the amount of area talent.

But after 15 years, their process of communicating with prospective auditionees has been honed. The word is out the event is unique. Plus, there is the \$1,000 prize for winning first place.

"Anyone will tell you that's performed in front of an orchestra, it's the most amazing feeling. It's almost like a high feeling, to have that wall of sound behind you," Tim said.

The team transformed Hoosier STAR as an online event. Tim, however, does not consider himself technically savvy.

"I have to admit to you, this is completely new to me," Tim said. "This is like a doctoral course for me. We're working with a bunch of 20- and 30-somethings, and they look at me like, Tim, this is no big deal."

Laughing, he explains why it's a big deal to him.

"I'm old school," he said. "I keep paper files on everything." To further illustrate his point, he taps on a white binder sitting in front of him.

Everything printed out keeps him organized and sane. A physical building where an event is held, the presence of the orchestra, the electricity of an audience is what he knows. That is his comfort zone.

"I'm used to putting on live concerts. I'm perfectly comfortable doing that. I have no problem with that. It's a lot of work, but I know what I'm doing," Tim said. "But to take it online, and stream it, now how does that work?"

Imagine willingly stepping out of that comfortable box and learning an entirely new process. Tim, as well as Chuck, have had a crash course in streaming technology through reading and research.

The overall revamping of Hoosier STAR began with auditions. After their postponement, Cherri was in constant contact, updating the auditionees by email. Those individuals who applied in March were notified auditions now were in mid-July.

"We practiced safe social distancing...and we had over 60 people still audition for Hoosier Star this year, knowing that they will not be singing with a live orchestra, and that's the big deal," Tim said.

The full orchestra will not perform due to the close proximity of musicians to each other. Factor in that more than half the orchestra is wind instruments, reports now indicate COVID-19 can be spread by respiratory droplets. So, the team needed to have an alternate music source.



The challenge for Hoosier STAR organizers this year, because of COVID-19, is reinventing the competition as an online event. This 2019 Beacher file photo is by Bob Wellinski.

Contestants this year will perform with a combo of five LCSO musicians: two pianos, a trap set, guitar and bass guitar will accompany each performer.

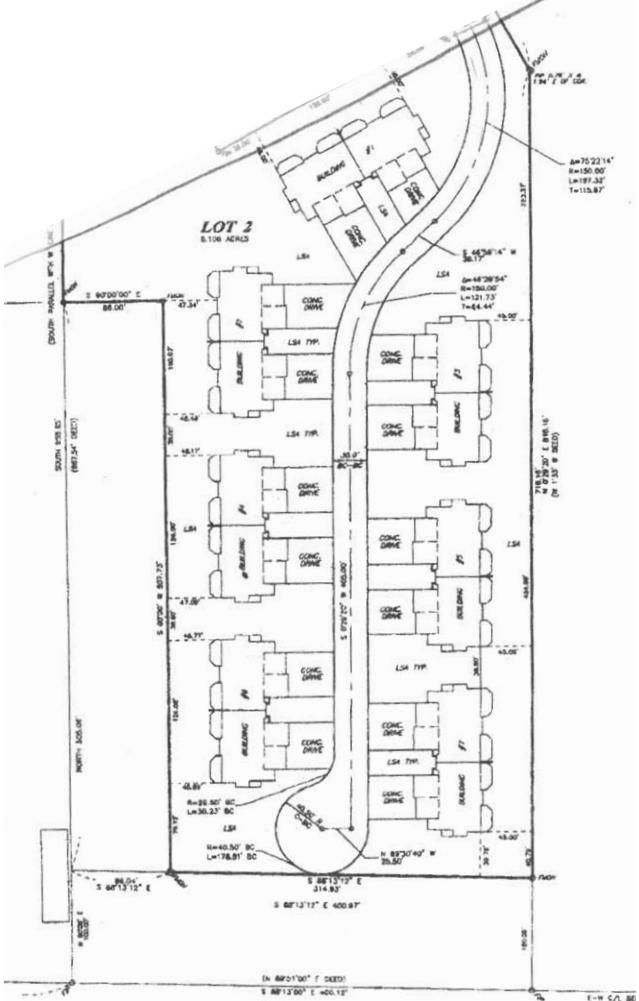
Having the combo instead of the full orchestra did not deter people from auditioning.

With the 10 contestants chosen — five youth and five adults — the focus then shifted to fine tuning the event.

The LCSO has partnered with Duneland Media, a platinum sponsor, to handle the live-stream event.

Without a live audience, the event needed a smaller venue. State Street Community Church in

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## A "Star" is Reborn

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LaPorte was chosen for its size, as well as having a quasi-auditorium with built-in sound and light.

Lacking the "goose bump factor" of the contestants performing before a live audience, and not receiving feedback in the way of applause, will be different. To overcome this, LCSO is saying to them, consider the performance like a recording session — laying down your best track.



Alastair Willis returns to conduct LCSO musicians during Hoosier STAR.

With the competition date rapidly approaching, the level of excitement among contestants and organizers is building. And despite the many changes this year, much of Hoosier STAR remains the same. The date is Saturday, Sept. 12. Grammy nominated conductor Alastair Willis will direct the LCSO combo. Jeremiah Mellen, the 2013 adult division Hoo-

sier STAR winner, returns as emcee. The celebrity judges — the Rev. Dewitt Jackson, Victoria Garret and Philip Potempa — will critique the contestants after their performance. Trophies and prizes go to first- and second-place winners in each division.

When Hoosier STAR does goes live, it will be streamed for free on the following sites: the LCSO website, Facebook pages for LCSO, Hoosier STAR and WIMS and on the LCSO YouTube channel. Voting for singer(s) is conducted only on the LCSO's website, [www.LCSO.net](http://www.LCSO.net).

In celebration of Hoosier STAR's 15th anniversary, the number of votes the audience can cast has changed. In the past, attendees received two paper ballots that allowed them to cast a single vote for each division. This year only, listeners can vote up to 15 times for their favorite youth finalist and 15 times for the adult finalist at \$10 per vote. Votes can be cast for a single contestant or split among the finalists in each division.

Unlike online shopping, where you can continue adding items to your basket and pay the total at the end, those who choose to split votes among numerous contestants will need to enter credit card payment information for every different contestant. Cash or debit voting are unavailable.

Like the live event, voting is only held during Hoosier STAR. An intermission is planned between the youth and adult divisions. The equivalent of a half-time show is scheduled. After intermission, the youth voting will end and the adult voting will commence and cease approximately 15 minutes after the last song selection.

### ADULT DIVISION



Alora Tribble



Leann Stutler



Evan Wooding



Alyse Flores



Alanna Mossell

### YOUTH DIVISION



Lily Belle Nuest



Raul Mejia Palma



Grace Elizabeth Phillips



Julia Larson



Jamileh Cornejo

This year's Hoosier STAR contestants in the adult and youth divisions.

Live streaming has opened an entirely new avenue, especially in voting. A computer at the performance will tally the votes in real time. The previous way of counting individual paper ballots may become a thing of the past.

For contestants whose relatives or friends live too far away to attend, they now can go online, watch them in real time and vote. For some, this will be the first time their relatives will see them perform live. Even sponsors who graciously supported the event, but have been unable to attend, can watch it live.

"I don't know of any other orchestra in the country that does something like this where they take... amateur singers and they get this incredible opportunity to solo in front of an orchestra and in front of a live audience," Tim said. "They don't get that chance this year, but they get the chance to be heard and seen by probably many thousands more than they would normally in a live concert."

By embracing a new way of doing things, the LCSO team has turned lemons into lemonade. People around the world now can experience the event. In a way, these contestants are making Hoosier STAR history. The possibilities and exposure through live streaming could set a new trajectory for the orchestra. Hoosier STAR might become a YouTube sensation.

The opportunities are endless.

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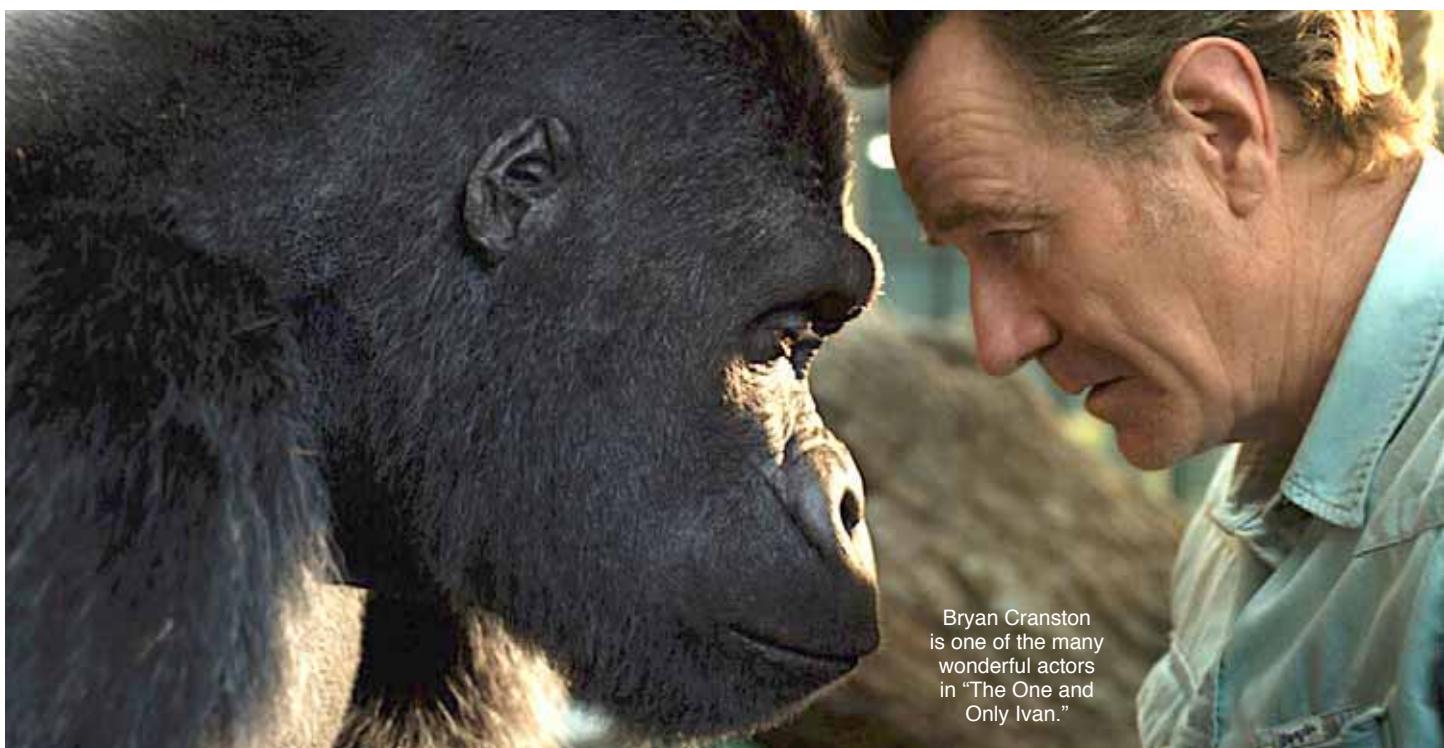
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## "The One and Only Ivan" is Family Film Perfection

by Andrew Tallackson



Bryan Cranston  
is one of the many  
wonderful actors  
in "The One and  
Only Ivan."

So, yeah, not gonna lie: "The One and Only Ivan" got to me. *Really* got to me. The movie charmed its way into my heart, the last 10 minutes daring the kind of "ugly cry" permissible only in private.

Is it that this gentle fable strikes a far deeper chord amid these troubled times? Hard to say, but the film, based on K.A. Applegate's beloved 2012 children's book and adapted by "School of Rock" scribe Mike White, is a family picture in the best sense of the term.

There really was a silverback gorilla named Ivan who spent nearly three decades performing in a shopping mall circus before an animal rights group raised a stink and got him released. What the book and now the movie, which is streaming on Disney+, do is tell Ivan's story from his perspective.

As voiced with weary defeat by Oscar-winner Sam Rockwell ("Three Billboards in Ebbing, Missouri"), Ivan has been the star of the mall circus for longer than he cares to remember, going about his duties as if on autopilot. His fellow performers keep him sane, many embodied by Hollywood A-listers, including: Stella, an African elephant voiced with unusual restraint by Angelina Jolie; Helen Mirren as the prissy poodle Snickers; and, in the film's most hilarious incarnation, Danny DeVito as Bob, the chatty stray dog who sleeps on Ivan's belly at night.

The humans in their lives aren't monsters, just trapped in mundane routines. The circus owner, Mack, treats his animals well, but yearns for bigger crowds. He's played by a relatively subdued Bryan Cranston ("Breaking Bad"). George (Ramón Rodríguez), the circus janitor, has a bright daughter, Ju-



### "The One and Only Ivan"

*Running time: 95 minutes. Rated PG  
for mild thematic elements*

lia (Ariana Greenblatt), who intuitively knows Ivan is destined for better, the only one, in fact, who picks up on the fact that Ivan knows how to draw.

All of this sounds like standard, cutesy Disney fare. But "The One and Only Ivan" has more on its mind. When Ruby (voiced by Brooklynn Prince), a baby African elephant arrives craving a father figure, she triggers memories of Ivan's former life, a happy one surrounded by family in the wild. And it is because of Ruby, and a pledge Ivan makes to Stella, that the idea of escape takes hold.

None of this would carry any weight if we didn't firmly believe in the world the film creates. Pretty quickly in "The One and Only Ivan," I'd forgotten the animals were special effects. How'd they do it? Don't want to know. The point is, the result is so seamless, the characters come across as creatures of flesh and blood.

With this being Disney, I braced for a noisy, chaotic, effects-ladden resolution. Instead, director Thea Sharrock, making her feature-film debut, builds to a hushed moment of revelation, then a final 10 minutes where anyone who says they did not cry is a bald-faced liar. "The One and Only Ivan" has had the courage to see Ivan's story through to the end, and the effect is, well, downright magical.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at [drew@thebeacher.com](mailto:drew@thebeacher.com)

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## Holding Back the Tide

by Paul Kemiell

Work has begun to control the severe beach erosion at the Wieboldt-Rostone House along Lake Michigan in Beverly Shores.

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## Exhibit on 19th Amendment Opens at History Museum

It was 100 years ago — Aug. 18, 1920 — that women's suffrage reached a turning point with the ratification of the 19th Amendment. Now, it's the focus of a new exhibit, "Votes for Women," that runs through March 21 at South Bend's The History Museum.

When it was ratified, the long-fought-for legal guarantee of women's right to vote was celebrated, although many groups continued to face barriers on the way to the polls. It was not until the 1965 Voting Rights Act that more of these barriers were eliminated.

"Votes for Women" explores the story of local suffragists like Alice Mannering, the first woman to run for public office in Indiana. She campaigned as the socialist candidate in South Bend's mayoral election of 1917. Annie Belle Boss, born in Elkhart in 1875, was active in the Elkhart branch of the Woman's



Elizabeth Fletcher Allen, the first African-American woman to practice law in South Bend, as well as in Indiana.

Franchise League and its successor, the Indiana League of Women Voters. Another Elkhart activist was Helen Beardsley, who founded the Elkhart Chapter of the Woman's Franchise League of Indiana in April 1913. In 1920, she became the first president of the Indiana League of Women Voters.

"Votes for Women" also features women who contributed to the South Bend community. Among them are: philanthropist Ella Morris, who in 1959 saved the Palace Theatre — now the Morris Performing Arts Center — from demolition; Elizabeth Fletcher Allen, the first African-American woman to practice law in South Bend, as well as Indiana; and Josephine Curtis, who founded the H.T. Burleigh Music Association, an African-American theater group.

Also on view is the traveling exhibit "Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence," organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service in collaboration with the National Portrait Gallery. The project received support from the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative.

The poster exhibit explores the complexity of the women's suffrage movement, and the relevance of this history to Americans' lives today. It addresses women's political activism, explores the racism that challenged universal suffrage and documents the ratification of the 19th Amendment.

The museum is located at 808 W. Washington St. Hours are (all times Eastern) 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. House tours have been temporarily restricted due to the pandemic and are available at 1 p.m. daily.

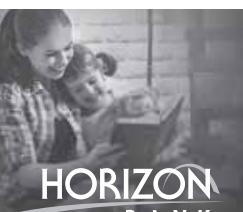
Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8.50 for seniors, \$6 for youth 6-17 and free for members. Visitors can see the adjoining Studebaker National Museum for an additional cost. Visit [www.historymuseumSB.org](http://www.historymuseumSB.org) or call (574) 235-9664 for more details.



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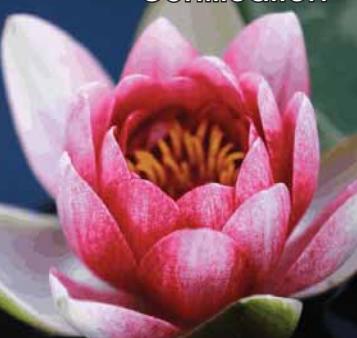
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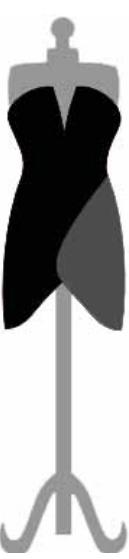


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## Taste and Tunes Concert

Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12, will host music by Johnny V during its "Taste and Tunes Concert" from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 28.



Johnny V

Johnny V, who offers music from genres such as blues, folk and Americana, has been singing across Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana for more than four decades. He has six albums and is working on a soundtrack for an independent film.

Advance tickets are recommended at [tinyurl.com/y56ynt4d](http://tinyurl.com/y56ynt4d). The cost is \$10 for adults, \$2 for ages 13-17 and free for children 12 and younger. Cash-only ticket sales also may be made at the door the day of the event. Beer and water will be available. Gates open at 5:30 p.m., with music starting at 6:30 p.m. Guests may enter at Liberty Trail, as the main entrance off U.S. 12 will be closed.

Chairs will be set up in the Celebration Meadow socially distanced from each other. Guests also can take lawn chairs or blankets. No outside food or drink are allowed.

The event is the first Johnny V concert in his summer series at the Gardens. He will return from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25.

Visit [www.friendshipgardens.org](http://www.friendshipgardens.org) or call (219) 878-9885 for more details.

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2. Don't "spike" your trees. Spiking causes wounds that lead to infection and tree decline. Anyone who spikes trees is causing long-term damage to the trees.
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4. Protect the roots out to the drip line from any activity other than foot traffic. The drip line is simply the outside edge of the canopy. On a mature open grown oak, it can be a circle of 60 feet in diameter.
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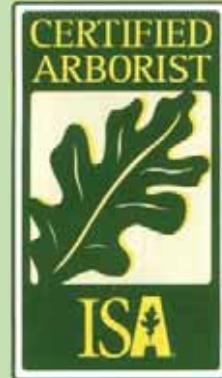
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## Shakespeare Festival Benefit Reading

The Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival will present a free online reading of Jeff Whitty's adaptation of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in collaboration with Play On Shakespeare!

The reading is at 7 p.m. EDT Friday, Aug. 28, on the Shakespeare at Notre Dame YouTube channel for four days only.



Originally commissioned by the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the director is Lavina Jadhwan, the reading a culmination of NDSF's summer of online performances, classes and

panel discussions. It features Sarah Scanlon (Ariel in the NDSF 2016 production of "The Tempest") and Cameron Knight, director of NDSF's 2018 production of "Othello" and star of NDSF 2017's production of "Much Ado About Nothing." Chicago-based actors Susaan Jamshidi and Jason Goff will read Titania and Bottom, while Nemuna Ceesay will read Helena.

Whitty, whose text is the basis of the reading, is an Academy Award-nominated and Tony-winning playwright ("Avenue Q"), screenwriter and actor.

Donations will benefit the Paul Rathburn Fund supporting NDSF artists. Rathburn, the festival's founder and original producing artistic director, died Feb. 12.



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# “Project Power” is Loads of Fun

by Andrew Tallackson



Jamie Foxx and, in a star-making turn, Dominique Fishback star in “Project Power.”

“Project Power” puts the fun back into popcorn movies. In fact, stack it alongside Charlize Theron’s slam-bang “The Old Guard” as two expert bids by Netflix to prove the super-hero film hasn’t reached the point of fatigue just yet.

What “Project Power” does is excise elements of the earlier “X-Men” pictures and rethink them as temporary gifts *and* curses amid a grittier setting, one that never loses sight of its heart, while also going for laughs at the right moments. To top it off, it features a career-making performance by young actress Dominique Fishback that sees her not just holding her own against power-hitters Jamie Foxx and Joseph Gordon-Leavitt, but walking away with scene after scene through ferocious comic timing.

The premise of the film, which just debuted on Netflix, is that in the near future, there’s a new drug on the streets, a “power” pill that affords the user five minutes of wildly unpredictable super powers. The pill is viewed as the next step in human evolution, the specific powers derived from animals such as frogs and wolverines. Its purveyors are “testing” it in New Orleans, exploiting the lower classes and unleashing a frenzied crime epidemic.

Three characters gradually link up because of the pill. One is NOPD Officer Frank Shaver (Leavitt), who also happens to be one of the pill’s “users” when in the heat of police duty. The second is Art (Foxx), who is hunting down a distributor known as “Big-

★ ★ ★ 1/2

## “Project Power”

*Running time: 113 minutes. Rated R for violence, bloody images, drug content and some language*

gie” (Rodrigo Santoro, King Xerxes from “300”). His motivations seem hazy at first, what drives him becoming more apparent as the action progresses. The third is Robin (Fishback), a “dealer” selling the pill on the street to support her diabetic mother.

Until now, Fishback has scored small, but noticeable roles in “The Hate U Give” and TV shows like “The Deuce.” The role of Robin could have been a tired action-movie trope: the eye-rolling, sass-machine sidekick. Instead, sporting a high-voltage smile that could light up New York City, she plays Robin as unflappable. Smart, determined to a fault, a mind that races from one solution to the next. And she wears her heart on her sleeve, so much so that Frank and Art cannot say “no” to her at every turn. She also expresses herself best through freestyle rap, a talent Art beautifully coaxes out of her as her own “super power” as a young black woman.

“Project Power” was directed by Ariel Schulman and Henry Joost, best known for introducing the world to the “catfish” phenomenon through film and TV, and written by Mattson Tomlin, who penned the



Joseph Gordon-Levitt, seen here with Jamie Foxx, offers strong support throughout "Project Power."

upcoming DC reboot "The Batman." Their film is fierce and fast, playfully zipping from one action sequence to the next while revealing a more challenging subtext in which society shows little empathy toward those on which it "tests" its latest discoveries. There are some nifty effects, too, the most impressive being a "user" with chameleon-like skills who emerges from a wall painting, subsequently adapting to whatever scenery he passes.

The treat of "Project Power" is that it makes efficient use of its cast's comedic strengths, the highlight being when Frank comes to the rescue of Robin's mother, Irene (Andrene Ward-Hammond). Frank films her potential attackers with his cell phone while she jumps into the frame, offering her two cents. The scene is hilariously choreographed, playful in the face of legitimate menace.

The heart of the movie, though, belongs to the reliably charismatic Foxx as Art. The "why" behind his mission takes on an increasingly personal bent, one that elevates the explosive climax, complete with a lively Amy Landecker as one of the heavies, to an exceedingly emotional close. The payoff is worth all the heavy pyrotechnics that precede it.

The past year, thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic, is one we'd like to put behind us, but here and there, moments of sheer escapism emerge that warrant our attention.

"Project Power" is one of them.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at [drew@thebeacher.com](mailto:drew@thebeacher.com)

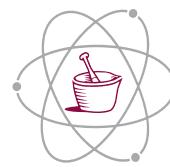
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# “Boys State” Takes a Powerful Look at the Political Machine

by Andrew Tallackson

## The Key Players



Above: Rene Otero. Below: Ben Feinstein.



“Boys State,” an extraordinary new documentary streaming through Apple+, explores our fractured political climate through the most volatile demographic imaginable: 1,100 teenage boys.

Equal-parts absorbing and alarming, what directors/producers Jesse Moss and Amanda McBaine reveal is American politics in a fishbowl. Political divisiveness starts early, absorbed by youth in their formative years so when young adulthood arrives, they exist not collectively, as one voice, but as starkly opposite camps.

The film won the Sundance Film Festival’s U.S. Documentary Competition Grand Jury Prize and was slated for the March South by Southwest festival before it was canceled due to COVID-19.

For the unfamiliar, Boys and Girls State, of which Indiana participates, is a summer leadership/citizenship effort, sponsored by the American Legion and its auxiliary, that places teens at ground zero in building their own government.

In “Boys State,” which was filmed in Texas in 2018, the boys are randomly organized into two groups: Federalists and Nationalists. They stage mock elections for party chairmen and all the way to governor and lieutenant governor.

Any parent watching “Boys State” will squirm during early scenes in which the teen delegates behave with the “boys will be boys” maturity of Ritalin-deprived 8-year-olds. One kid, for example, introduces mock legislation that preps Texas for an invasion of space aliens. Another, Robert MacDougall, who scores curiously considerable screen time, runs for party chairman, his vote-for-me speech including a rabid gesture to his male reproductive organ.

Eventually, party chairmen are elected: Rene Otero for the Nationalists and Ben Feinstein for the Federalists. From there, little by little, the messy, complicated nature of politics takes hold. Otero, who is black and considers himself a liberal outsider, finds himself the target of impeachment. Feinstein’s party, hearing of the proceedings, quickly pounces, exploiting that weakness amid the campaign. Gun control becomes the hot topic — this is Texas, after all — and camp lines are etched in stone.

Or are they?

The heart and soul of “Boys State,” the real hero of the film, is Steven Garza, who becomes the Nationalist candidate for governor. The sharp, soft-spoken son of immigrants is untainted by the political machine, presenting himself as the embodiment of the American dream. He’s attacked for being a March for Our Lives organizer, but the moments of genuine awe in the film are the instances when he

# “Boys State” Takes a Powerful Look at the Political Machine

by Andrew Tallackson



## “Boys State”

Running time: 109 minutes. Rated PG-13 for some strong language and thematic elements

stands before the delegates, repeatedly deflecting pettiness to express where he stands as a candidate. And when teens from the opposing party stop to say how much they admire him, we cross our fingers that unity is possible.

The climax of “Boys State” involves the final elections. Had this been a feature film, we might have been treated to a sappy, convenient conclusion. But this is a documentary, and what it succinctly conveys is how firmly political machinations take root in the latest generation. Otero, in fact, has the most telling observation, suggesting Feinstein has the brightest future in politics, which, he adds, “is not meant as a compliment.”

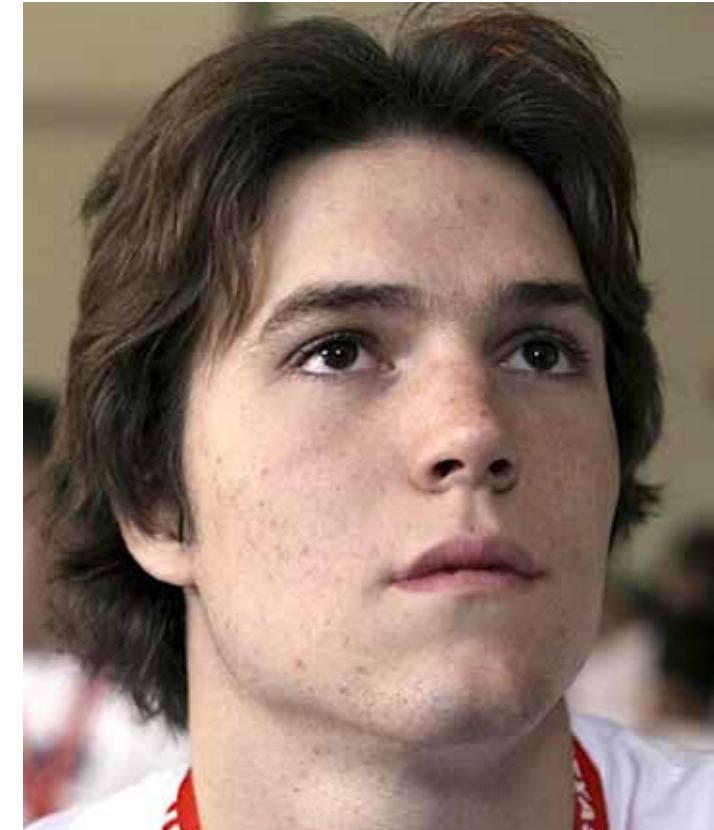
And as troubling as “Boys State” is, we are left with hope through Garza, first during a post-election phone call to his mother, then the film’s most powerful moment in which a fellow party member, unable to control his emotions, tells Garza he is one of the few people he admires.

The message of “Boys State” may be more palpable for adults than teens, that how we conduct ourselves in public, particularly in government, has a trickle-down effect on our youth. They are watching us. Closely.

This should be mandatory viewing.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at [drew@thebeacher.com](mailto:drew@thebeacher.com)

## The Key Players



Above: Robert MacDougall. Below: Steven Garza



Directors Jesse Moss and Amanda McBaine.



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## Acorn Anywhere Concert



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Indiana Dunes National Park is the location for the next "Acorn Anywhere" concert, which features the Rolling Stones tribute band Beggars Banquet, at 7 p.m. CDT Saturday, Aug. 29.

The band boasts a sizable Rolling Stones catalogue, as well as the many artists covered by the Stones, including Muddy Waters, Buddy Holly, Robert Johnson and Chuck Berry.

The show's exact location will be disclosed 24 hours in advance. General seating costs \$50 and reserved seating \$75. The latter option offers seats close to the stage with optimal sight lines. Visitors can take beverages, snacks and chairs.

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The Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship application is available through Unity Foundation of LaPorte County at [www.uflc.net](http://www.uflc.net).

Supported by Independent Colleges of Indiana and Lilly, Unity offers two four-year college scholarships to benefit LaPorte County residents. It provides full tuition, required fees and up to \$900 per year for required books and equipment for four years of undergraduate study leading to a baccalaureate degree at any accredited Indiana public or private college or university.

The selection committee is comprised of volunteers from throughout the county who put considerable weight on the essay part of the process. Students are advised to have a counselor, teacher or other trusted mentor proofread their answers before submitting the application.

To be eligible, students must:

- Be LaPorte County residents.
- Have graduated from an accredited high school that serves LaPorte County by June 30, 2021.
- Intend to pursue a full-time baccalaureate course of study beginning in fall 2021 at an accredited Indiana college or university.
- Submit a complete online application at [www.uflc.net](http://www.uflc.net) by 11:59 p.m. Sept. 6.

The scholarship is awarded based on academic achievement, demonstrated service to others, leadership ability, commitment and motivation to succeed in academics, employment history and financial need. A personal interview will assist in determining scholarship nominees.

During the past 20 years, 62 LaPorte County students have benefitted from the program, totaling more than \$4 million in support.

## Indiana Dunes State Park

*The following program is offered:*

- **Full Moon Hike from 8 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 2.**

The two-mile hike involves moderate dunes, beach and flat pavement. Hikers can contact the Nature Center up to the day before to see what trail route will be used. Dogs are welcome if they are friendly in crowds and obey park rules.

The program is canceled if the weather is poor; however, if it is only cloudy, a hike is still planned. Guests are encouraged to practice social distancing.

Registration is not necessary because the hike is free after paying the park entry fee of \$7 for in-state vehicles or \$12 for out of state.

Parking is limited by the Nature Center. Additional parking is by nearby picnic shelters.

*Indiana Dunes State Park is at 1600 N. County Road 25 East (the north end of Indiana 49), Chesterton. Call (219) 926-1390 for more information.*

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## LaPorte Boy Honored at Museum Unveiling

Former LaPortean Roland Hockett, an artist and sculptor, has donated his 9-foot copper sculpture of Icarus to LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave.

Hockett grew up in LaPorte, graduated from LaPorte High School and taught art there after graduating from college. He now lives in Panama City, Fla., where he maintains his studio.

The statue is a representation of the young man from Greek mythology who used wings crafted of feathers and wax in an attempt to fly. He flew too close to the sun, the wings melted and he crashed into the sea.

Reagan Buchanan, 11-year-old son of board member Drew Buchanan and his wife Jamie, was familiar with the story and asked to write a short description of the "Icarus" story to display with the sculpture.

Hockett was so impressed with Reagan's story, he selected a page from his sketchbook of the statue's preliminary drawings as a gift to him. The drawing, signed by the artist, was presented to Reagan at the museum's unveiling of "Icarus" on Aug. 1.

Fern Eddy Schultz, LaPorte County historian and Historical Society board member, was instrumental in establishing contact with Hockett nearly



At the "Icarus" unveiling are (from left) Museum Director Keri Teller Jakubowski, LaPorte County Historian Fern Eddy Schultz, Reagan Buchanan, Board President Bruce Johnson and Board Vice President Gary Ashby.

two years ago. The artist has since donated multiple paintings and drawings to the museum.

The sculpture was crated and shipped from Hockett's studio in Panama City to the museum.

Hours for the museum are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Masks are required, and visitors will have their temperatures taken. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors (60+) and free for children 18 and younger. Call (219) 324-6767 or email info@laportecountyhistory.org for details.

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Passengers purchasing a paper September monthly ticket should keep that ticket for October. Those purchasing a digital September monthly ticket through the mobile app will see an October ticket uploaded to their account prior to Oct. 1. For those who receive tickets through an employer benefit program such as Wage Works and Commuter Benefit Solutions, do not order October tickets if already receiving a September monthly ticket.

Each train continues to offer a “mask-optional” car (the second car of every train); however, St. Joseph, LaPorte and Lake counties now require facial coverings in public areas. Therefore, passengers seated in the “mask optional” car are requested to govern their behavior consistent with the mask requirements posted by those counties. Guidance on mask requirements by county can be found at [www.mysouthshoreline.com](http://www.mysouthshoreline.com).

Contact SSL through [www.mysouthshoreline.com/contact](http://www.mysouthshoreline.com/contact) with questions.

## Harbor Country Hikers

Harbor Country Hikers will explore Chesterton's Coffee Creek Watershed starting at 10 a.m. EDT Saturday, Aug. 29.

Hikers will meet at the Chesterton Amphitheater, walk the preserve's ADA trails, then, for those who wish to continue, hike a three-mile mix of additional trails. Coffee Creek Preserve is notable for balancing recreational needs with a biodiverse environment. The hike is rated “easy.”

Membership is encouraged; however, the public is welcome, including children if accompanied by an adult. Social distancing is observed, and the use of face masks is required.

Visit [www.harborcountryhikers.com](http://www.harborcountryhikers.com) for details.

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## Krasl Art Center Fall Courses

Krasl Art Center's fall slate of offerings includes outdoor and in-person programs, take-home kits and virtual classes starting Thursday, Sept. 17.

Classes are open to members and non-members of all age ranges and skill levels. Students must register five days before class begins. Outdoor classes are on the KAC's Oval Lawn. Students will be spaced 6 feet apart in tents — when not exploring St. Joseph — and required to wear masks.

By request, KAC will offer five Krasl Kits in addition to virtual and in-person courses. They contain supplies and instructions to complete projects from home, both for youth/families and adults 13 and older. Youth and Family kits include "Tye-Dye Masks" and "Clay Dinos & Dragons." Adult kits include slab-constructed coffee mugs. Buy and schedule pickup time at the website education tab.

Home-school, virtual youth classes (ages 5-12) are available in ceramics, drawing and animation. Taught by local professional artists, students can schedule art supply and clay-piece pickups once enrolled. Classes include: "Mud-Makers," "Cartooning: From Paper to Sculpture," "Greenscreen & Stop-Motion Animation" and "Drawing & Painting with Depth." Visit the website education tab for full descriptions, pricing and registration.

Adult/teen classes (13 older) include drawing, painting and ceramics. Visit the education tab for full listings, descriptions and registration. Students in virtual classes will not have access to the studios.

Also planned are free art activities for families.

"Family Nights with the Benton Harbor Public Library" kicks off from 5 to 6:30 p.m. EDT Sept. 9, and continue the second Wednesday of each month, or during second Saturdays for Family Days at 11 a.m. EDT. Pick up a free "fundle" on Mondays and Sundays the week before each event. Visit <https://krasl.org/education/free-and-fun/> for the schedule.

Scholarships are available for families with financial need.

Registration and more information are available at [www.krasl.org](http://www.krasl.org), call (269) 983-0271 or visit KAC, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Guest policies in light of COVID-19 can be viewed at [www.krasl.org/visit/hours-admission](http://www.krasl.org/visit/hours-admission).

## Reins of Life Fundraiser

Reins of Life will host its "Jockeys & Juleps" virtual fundraiser from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 28.

The event is free, with donations encouraged. The best Kentucky Derby hat winner receives a gift basket.

Registration is at [reinsoflife2020.eventbrite.com](https://reinsoflife2020.eventbrite.com). Call (574) 232-0853 or email [staff@reinsoflife.org](mailto:staff@reinsoflife.org) for more details. The therapeutic horseback riding facility has locations in South Bend and Michigan City.

**LBCC Women's Golf Leagues**

**9 Hole Women's Golf**  
**Aug. 6, 2020**  
**Flight A**

Low Putts: Eunie Nondorf.

**Flight B**

First Place: Dottie Healy.

Second Place: Mary Weithers, Pat Bailey.

Low Putts: Joan Carey.

**Flight C**

First Place: Sarah Blank.

Second Place: Carol Lyons.

Low Putts: Sally Allen, Tina Sonderby.

**Sunken Approach**

Babs Ward: Hole 13.

**Aug. 13, 2020**

**Flight A**

First Place: Kathy Kenefick, Patti Coker.

Second Place: Eunie Nondorf.

Low Putts: Kathy Kenefick.

**Flight B**

First Place: Susan Keeley, Paulette Harnach.

Second Place: Suzanne Sullivan.

Low Putts: Paulette Harnach.

**Flight C**

First Place: Tina Sonderby.

Second Place: Ginny Hogan, Carol Lyons.

Low Putts: Adele O'Donnell.

**Sunken Approach**

Adele O'Donnell: Hole 1.

Jeanne St Peter: Hole 3.

Tina Sonderby: Hole 6.

Patti Coker: Hole 7.



*The American Red Cross LaPorte County Chapter will sponsor the following bloodmobiles:*

- Michigan City Fire Training Center, 2510 E. Michigan Blvd., 12:30-5:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 27.
- Conservation Club House, 1 Mill Pond Road, Union Mills, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 30.
- LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday, Aug. 31
- St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, noon-6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 1

*Donors through Sept. 3 receive a \$5 Amazon.com gift card by email at rcblood.org/together. Donors must be in good general health and feeling well, at least 17 (16 with parental consent) and weigh at least 110 pounds. Call (800) 733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org for more details. Visit rcblood.org/together for more details.*

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### Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the 'Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in

this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in Eternal Glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.

## LaPorte County Public Library

LaPorte County Public Library has resumed its curbside pickup service.

Hours for locations in *The Beacher's* readership area include:

- Coolspring Branch: Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Main Library: Tuesday/Thursday (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and Saturday (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

Place holds on materials using an online account or by calling (219) 362-6156, Option 1. Then, select a pickup location. Notifications will come by email, text or phone. There is no limit on the number of requested items at this time.

Two parking spots will be labeled at each location. When arriving, a staff member will greet people outside. If no one arrives, call (219) 362-6156, Option 3, or the direct number for the branch location. A staff member will bring the reserved items to vehicles in a brown paper bag.

Returns can be placed in book drops and checked in within 24 to 72 hours. All library materials are quarantined between customers for 24 to 72 hours, per CDC and IMLS best practices. Materials are cleaned when needed. Library patrons can disinfect materials after arriving home.

Check laportelibrary.org and follow social media for updates.

*LaPorte County Public Library is located at 904 Indiana Ave. The Coolspring Branch is located at 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Visit www.laportelibrary.org for more details.*

## Michigan City Farmer's Market

The Michigan City Farmer's Market is open from 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays through October at Eighth and Washington streets.

Following advice from Gov. Eric Holcomb and health officials, the following restrictions are in place:

- No open food. All items must be pre-packaged and fully labeled.
- No sampling food items.
- Home-based vendors can sell items.
- Social-distancing guidelines must be followed.
- No cooking or food preparation on site.

Everyone, including vendors, is encouraged to wear proper masks. Portable handwashing stations will be available.

Market organizers want to create a craft market on the north side of Eighth Street later this summer or in spring 2021. Surveys are planned to determine what customers would like to see in such a market.

Contact Special Events Coordinator Johnny Stimley for more details, or if interested in becoming a vendor, at (219) 229-1567 or [jstimley@emichigancity.com](mailto:jstimley@emichigancity.com)

## Lyric in the Gardens Returns

Some of the biggest names in Chicago's arts scene will present the Lyric Opera of Chicago preview "Lyric in the Gardens" from 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 30, at Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12.

The event will include performances by Chicago Lyric Opera Ryan Center artists Kimberly Jones, Maia Surace, Cornelius Johnson, Gary Alexander, Paul Dykstra and Aaron Wardell. The program will include arias from Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro," Puccini's "Tosca," Donizetti's "Elixir of Love" and Broadway favorites such as "The Phantom of the Opera," "The Secret Garden," "Man of La Mancha," "Trouble in Tahiti" and "Ragtime."

General admission is available on Eventbrite for \$45. Tickets also will be sold at the door the day of the event. Premium seating tickets cost \$50. Light appetizers are included with each ticket. A cash bar with wine and beer will be on site. All proceeds contribute to the Gardens' continued restoration.

The performance will begin promptly at 4 p.m. Arrive at 3 p.m. for wine, beer, beverages and light appetizers. The option also exists to stroll through the 105 acres of gardens, trails and meadows.

Chairs will be available in the Celebration Meadow; however, guests are encouraged to take lawn chairs or blankets. Seating will be safely distanced in the lawn. Face coverings are required when it is impossible to stay 6 feet away from others. No outside food or drink are allowed in the venue.

Visit [www.friendshipgardens.org](http://www.friendshipgardens.org) or call (219) 878-9885 for more details.

## Outdoor Summer Sing-Along

Harbor Country Singers will sponsor its third outdoor summer sing-along at 6:30 p.m. EDT Thursday, Aug. 27, at Three Oaks Arts & Education Center, 14 Maple St.

The program will feature folk songs by: Pete Seeger; Woody Guthrie; Peter, Paul and Mary; Bob Dylan; and Joni Mitchell. School of American Music's Donna Mitchell and HCS Producer Pat Putnam will lead the singing, and Guitar Instructor Ron Spears will provide accompaniment. Other guitarists can take instruments and play along.

Michigan COVID-19 rules allow outdoor gatherings of up to 100 people, provided social distancing is maintained. Sanitized seating from the Arts & Education Center will be available, or attendees can take lawn chairs. Face shields will be available on request, and sheet music and lyrics will be provided, although the ability to read music is not required to participate. The program rain date is the same time Tuesday, Sept. 8.

HCS is a program of The School of American Music supported by a Pokagon Fund grant.

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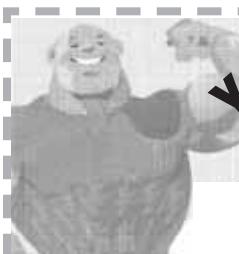
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**LaPorte Farmer's Market**

The LaPorte Farmer's Market is open Saturdays starting at 8 a.m. through October in the Lincolnway parking lot next to Mucho Mas.

The event is run by Angela Rose, LaPorte Economic Advancement Partnership downtown director, and Lindsay Jongkind, LEAP marketing and membership director.

Vendors are organized in a straight line on both sides of the area. Customers are asked to stand behind the marked line (3-feet distance) and maintain at least 6 feet between each person in line.

Market managers will be posted at the entrance and limit attendance to 50 people at a time.

All produce and goods will be prepackaged and handed out in bags. Seniors and at-risk individuals are encouraged to shop from 9 to 10 a.m.

More information is available at [www.laportepartnership.com](http://www.laportepartnership.com) or on the Farmer's Market Facebook Page. On Thursdays before the market, a weekly list of vendors and produce is posted on the Facebook page. Call Rose and Jongkind at (219) 324-8584 for more information.

**Art Barn School of Art**

*The following program is planned:*

- **4th Friday Open Mic from 7 to 10 p.m. Friday, Aug. 28.**

The evening, open to singers, songwriters, musicians and poets, also is broadcast through Facebook Live.

*The Art Barn is located at 695 N. County Road 400 East, Valparaiso. Call (219) 462-9009 or visit [www.artbarnschool.org](http://www.artbarnschool.org) for more details.*

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## Westchester Public Library

Westchester Public Library has curbside pickup at its Thomas and Hageman branches.

Use a library card or go online to place holds on up to 10 items, including DVDs and CDs. Once notified the items are available, park in specially-numbered spaces at each branch during pickup hours.

While parked, call the library phone number posted on the numbered space sign, tell staff your library card number and he/she will check out the items and take them to a table at the parking space and walk away. Patrons then can step out of their vehicle to retrieve them. Curbside hours are Monday-Friday (1 to 6 p.m. at Thomas and Hageman) and Saturday (11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Thomas and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Hageman).

For patrons with materials checked out before COVID-19 restrictions were in place, return them to the building drop boxes. Do not return them in bags. Do not return board games; those can be returned at a future date. Return eReaders into the Audio/Visual drop.

*Hageman Library (219-926-9080) is located at 100 Francis St., Porter. Thomas Library (219-926-7696) is located at 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Westchester Township History Museum (219-983-9715) is located at 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton. The Baugher Center is located at 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.*

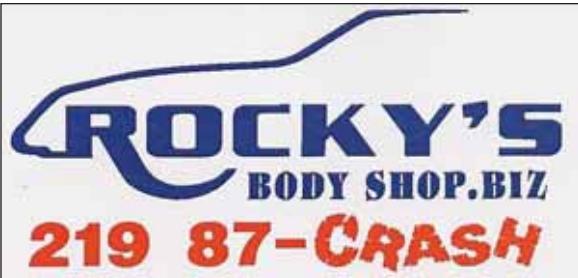
## Museum Debuts Documentary

“Lifestyles of the Mich(iana) and Famous,” a new Region of Three Oaks Museum-produced documentary, will debut to live audiences in a controlled setting Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 29-30.

The screenings are at 4 and 6 p.m. EDT both days at the old Township Hall, 8 E. Linden St., Three Oaks, which the museum recently acquired.

The 31-minute film looks at some of the many rich and famous who made the area their part-time home, including: Carl Sandburg, Jesse Owens, Jane Addams, Oprah Winfrey and John Paul Stevens. It marks the fifth project on area history by TROTOM Board Member Nick Bogert, a former network TV news producer. An original soundtrack, written and produced by Garth Taylor, head of The School of American Music, is featured.

Reservations are required to ensure proper social distance, and should specify either the early or late showing on Saturday or Sunday. Masks are required, and seating is limited. To reserve a spot, email [trotommuseum@gmail.com](mailto:trotommuseum@gmail.com). The suggested donation is \$3 for museum members and \$15 for nonmembers, which includes a membership. All proceeds support the museum, 5 Featherbone Ave., Three Oaks.



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# THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

**On August 27, 1859**, near Titusville, Pa., Col. Edwin Drake drilled the first successful oil well in the United States.

**On August 27, 1892**, fire seriously damaged New York's original Metropolitan Opera House.

**On August 27, 1938**, at a poetry reading by Archibald MacLeish, a jealous Robert Frost set fire to some papers to disrupt the performance.

**On August 27, 1962**, the U.S. launched the Mariner 2 space probe. It would fly past Venus the following December.

**On August 27, 1982**, the Oakland A's Rickey Henderson stole his 119th base, setting a new major league record. He stole three more bases in the same game.

**On August 28, 1922**, New York's radio station WEAF broadcast the world's first radio commercial. The Queensboro Realty Co. Jackson Heights paid \$100 for 10 minutes of air time.

**On August 28, 1963**, approximately 200,000 people who gathered for a peaceful civil-rights demonstration in Washington, D.C., heard Dr. Martin Luther King deliver his famous "I have a dream..." speech.

**On August 28, 1976**, scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology reported that they had created an artificial gene, the basic unit of heredity.

**On August 28, 1996**, the troubled 15-year marriage of Britain's Prince Charles and Princess Diana ended officially with the issuance of a divorce decree.

**On August 29, 1817**, the *Philanthropist*, the first abolition newspaper in the United States, was published in Mount Pleasant, Ohio.

**On August 29, 1896**, chop suey was invented, and first served, at a restaurant in New York City. It has since become a mainstay of Chinese restaurants.

**On August 29, 1945**, during World War II, General Douglas MacArthur arrived in Japan to accept the Japanese surrender.

**On August 29, 1966**, at San Francisco's Candlestick Park, the Beatles gave their last concert.

**On August 30, 30 B.C.**, Cleopatra is reported to have committed suicide by holding an asp in her hand and encouraging it to bite her on the breast.

**On August 30, 1780**, Gen. Benedict Arnold betrayed the United States when he promised to surrender the fort at West Point, N.Y., to the British. He fled to England, where he died in poverty.

**On August 30, 1862,** Confederate troops defeated Union forces at the Civil War's "Second Battle of Bull Run."

**On August 30, 1929,** Col. E.H. Green took delivery of a newly designed combination gas and electric automobile built by General Electric Co. of Schenectady, N.Y. It was a 60-horsepower vehicle that had no clutch or gear shift. Two pedals, one on each side of the central brake pedal, were used for acceleration.

**On August 30, 1967,** the Senate confirmed Thurgood Marshall as the first black justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

**On August 30, 1983,** Guion Bluford Jr. became the first black American astronaut in space, blasting off aboard the space shuttle Challenger.

**On August 31, 1887,** Thomas A. Edison received a patent for his Kinetoscope, a device that produced moving pictures.

**On August 31, 1888,** Mary Ann Nicholls was found murdered in London's East End in what generally is regarded as the first killing by Jack the Ripper.

**On August 31, 1941,** the radio program "The Great Gildersleeve" debuted on NBC.

**On September 1, 1682,** 100 English Quakers, led by William Penn, sailed for America aboard "HMS Welcome." Many were buried at sea as a smallpox epidemic swept through the ship.

**On September 1, 1859,** the first Pullman sleeping car was placed in service on a train operating between Chicago and Bloomington, Ill.

**On September 1, 1878,** Emma Nutt became America's first female telephone operator in Boston. Within a few hours, her sister became the second.

**On September 1, 1897,** the first section of Boston's new subway system was opened.

**On September 1, 1914,** the last known passenger pigeon died in the Cincinnati Zoo.

**On September 2, 1609,** English explorer Henry Hudson sailed into the river that now bears his name.

**On September 2, 1666,** the "Great Fire of London" began, destroying more than 13,000 buildings before being brought under control.

**On September 2, 1789,** the U.S. Treasury Department was established by Congress. Alexander Hamilton was appointed as its first secretary.

**On September 2, 1901,** in a speech at the Minnesota State Fair, Vice President Theodore Roosevelt made his famous "Speak softly and carry a big stick" statement.

**On September 2, 1930,** the first non-stop airplane flight from Europe to the United States was completed in 37 hours.

On September 2, 1963, "The CBS Evening News" with Walter Cronkite was lengthened from 15 to 30 minutes, becoming network television's first half hour nightly newscast.



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## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

### **The Lions of Fifth Avenue** by Fiona Davis

(hardcover, \$27 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 351 pages.)

The lions in this title do not refer to the titans of business in New York City, but rather the large stone animals that grace the New York Public Library entrance at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street. I'm back to my favorite genre this week — historical fiction — and one of my favorite authors. I have read Davis' past four books and thoroughly enjoyed the settings and feelings her writing evokes, placing you right in the middle of everything.

Each book is about a specific place, and each place is the main character. The people floating in and out of these places have a story not just within these buildings, but *because* of these buildings.

It's 1913, the library building is only two years old, but it already attracts thousands of visitors a day, and contains 88 miles of stacks that hold one million books. This particular branch is a research library only. No books are checked out, you have to submit a request for a specific book or object and state what you are researching. Security is high.

The library superintendent is Jack Lyons. His wife, Laura, and their two children, Pearl and Harry, live in an apartment in the upper level there.

Like much historical fiction, the story jumps back and forth in time — 1913 to 1993.

While a more-than-capable superintendent, Jack Lyon wants to write a novel — been working on it for several years now, and as an educated woman, Laura feels somehow cheated her husband can follow his dreams, but she is not allowed any.

Laura graduated from Vassar and now desires to become a journalist. This would be a chance to do something for herself; remember, there weren't many opportunities for women in 1913, and besides, the children are growing up: Harry is 11 and Pearl is 7.

Jack's boss asks Laura to write a column for the library newsletter, and she comes up with "Life Between the Stacks" about being a mother and living in the library. That prompts her to apply for the new Columbia Journalism School. She is accepted, but since the Lyons have no extra money for the tuition and books, it seems like a lost cause. Jack's boss comes through, however, and finds her a scholarship — class is now in session!

The story then shifts to 1993 where Sadie Donovan is working at the same library as assistant curator of the Berg Collection, a special group of books, letters and objects from famous authors, all priceless. Keep in mind, all these things are locked up safely each night.

There is to be an upcoming exhibit, mostly to garner donors, and Sadie is put in charge ahead of her colleague, Claude. He's not happy.

One piece of information she's holding back is that she is the granddaughter of Laura Lyons, who became an important writer in the years after 1913. Laura's walking stick is to be part of the exhibit, and her boss wants something else of hers to go with it. Sadie decides telling the boss who she is related to becomes problematic when her research uncovers disturbing information about rare books stolen during 1913. Was her grandfather involved? Or maybe her grandmother? And what was the cause of his untimely death that same year?

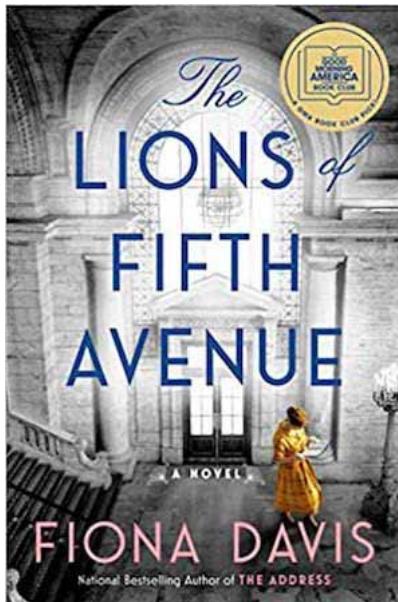
Now things begin to unravel in 1993: As the exhibit starts coming together, a notebook written by Virginia Woolf goes missing. It's always locked up — how could it have been stolen? Maybe telling her boss she is related to Laura Lyons is not a good idea at this time. Will the library hold the events of 80 years ago against her?

A private detective, Nick Adriano, is called in to investigate, prompting Sadie to feel the weight of being the obvious thief. It doesn't help that something else goes missing...

Back in 1913, the story veers off to show some history of the suffragette movement. Laura, on assignment for journalism school, discovers a club where she feels more than at home. Her enthusiasm for it, however, proves to be hurtful to her family and her relationship with her husband in ways she will regret the rest of her life. What a confusing time it must have been for women...How could she think she could mix work with being a wife and mother? It's an interesting addition to the story and blends in seamlessly with the mystery of missing books and broken relationships.

Davis has done an amazing job of bringing together the links that bind Sadie and her grandparents, as well as providing an insider's look at one of the architectural treasures of New York. The characters in this story may be fictional, but — if only those walls could talk...

Till next time, happy reading!





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